Application No. 09/852,709 **Art Unit 2874**
Docket No. ACT 201/ Shipley 03-10 **Examiner Michael J. Stahl**

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the above amendment. Claims 43-58 have been added to recite additional aspects of Applicants' invention, and claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 16, 26, 27, 30, 31, and 40 have been amended to effect editorial revision. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Niels Haun
PTO Reg. No. 48,488

DANN DORFMAN HERRELL & SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation
1601 Market Street, Suite 720
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 563-4100
Fax: (215) 563-4044

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ATTACHMENT

The following are the marked up copies of the claims as amended. Bracketed text has been deleted, and underlined text has been inserted.

3. (Amended Twice) An optical switch assembly comprising:

a fixed optical array;

a movable optical array;

a plurality of first optical fibers mounted on said fixed optical array and a plurality of second optical fibers mounted on said movable optical array; and

a mounting apparatus comprising a plurality of mounting structures, wherein said fixed optical array is immobile relative to said mounting apparatus and said movable optical array is movable along side mounting apparatus, and

wherein said fixed optical array comprises an upper chip mated to a lower chip, said chips comprising grooves which mate to receive said first optical fibers and cut-in portions which create a notch between said upper and lower chips, and said movable optical array [includes] comprises an upper chip mated to a lower chip, said chips comprising [including] grooves which mate to receive said second optical fibers and cut-in portions which create a notch between said upper and lower chips.

5. (Amended Once) An optical switch assembly comprising:

a fixed optical array [including] comprising at least one chip with a plurality of first and second grooves;

a movable optical array [including] comprising at least one chip with a plurality of first and second grooves;

a plurality of first optical fibers mounted on said fixed optical array and a plurality of second optical fibers mounted on said movable optical array, wherein said first grooves of said fixed optical array are adapted to receive said first optical fibers and said first grooves of said movable optical array are adapted to receive said second optical fibers; and

a mounting apparatus comprising a plurality of mounting structures, said fixed optical array being immobile relative to said mounting apparatus and said movable optical array being movable along said mounting apparatus, wherein said second grooves of said fixed optical array are adapted to receive said mounting structures and said second grooves of said movable optical array are adapted to receive said mounting structures.

6. (Amended Once) The optical switch assembly of claim 5, wherein said mounting structures comprise at least one member chosen from [one or more of the group composed of] rails, fibers, and spheres.

11. (Amended Once) The optical switch assembly of claim 7, wherein said substrate [includes] comprises an opening.

16. (Amended Once) The optical switch assembly of claim 7, wherein said substrate [includes] comprises a first plurality of grooves and a second plurality of grooves extending in a transverse direction to said first plurality of grooves.

26. (Amended Twice) The method of claim 25, wherein said first and second support structures each [include] comprise upper and lower support portions, each said portion [having] comprising a pair of said cut-in portions, wherein said cut-in portions of said upper support portion mate with said cut-in portions of said lower support portion to create notches for receiving said pair of fibers.

27. (Amended Twice) The method of claim 20, further comprising preparing said mounting apparatus, [including] comprising:

providing a first plurality and second plurality of grooves in a base structure, said first plurality of grooves being transverse to said second plurality of grooves;

positioning a plurality of mounting structures within said base structure grooves; and

affixing one of said first and second support structures to said mounting structures in said first plurality of grooves in said base structure.

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30. (Amended Once) An optical switch assembly comprising:

a mounting apparatus;

a fixed optical array [including] comprising at least one chip with a plurality of first and second grooves, said fixed optical array being immobile relative to said mounting apparatus;

a movable optical array [including] comprising at least one chip with a plurality of first and second grooves, said movable optical array being movable along said mounting apparatus along the direction of the longitudinal axis of a selected one of said second grooves of the movable array;

a plurality of first optical fibers mounted in said first grooves of said fixed optical array; and

a plurality of second optical fibers mounted in said first grooves of said movable optical array.

31. (Amended Once) The optical switch assembly of claim 30, wherein said mounting apparatus [includes] comprises a plurality of mounting structures which [include] comprise at least one member chosen from [or more of the group composed of] rails, fibers, and spheres and wherein a respective mounting structure is engaged with a respective second groove of the fixed and movable arrays.

40. (Amended Once) The optical switch assembly of claim 31, wherein said substrate [includes] comprises a first plurality of grooves and a second plurality of grooves extending in a transverse direction to said first plurality of grooves.